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Transformative leadership in Africa: Thabo Mbeki and Africa's development agenda

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Declaration

I, Khensane Hlongwane, hereby declare that the research report submitted for the degree of Masters in International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, apart from where recognised, is my own work, and has not been formerly submitted to another university

K. L. M. Hlongwane

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Abstract

The debate on the causes of Africa's underdevelopment has offered different explanations for the deplorable state of the continent's development. While some argue that Africa's socio-economic malaise finds its roots in the structural adjustment policies and programmes (SAPs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank[1], other scholars believe that the real impediment to sustained economic growth and development in Africa has more to do with political leadership and the absence of good governance than with economic plans or reforms. These scholars have established a causal relationship between political leadership and economic development, arguing that the two are intimately interrelated, each being a cause and effect of the other[2]. What is more, these scholars have argued that if the continent is to recover from its economic malaise, "it needs leaders who are strong and self-confident, creators of great ideas and who are totally committed to Africa's economic recovery"[3]. It is against this background that this research report will contribute to these discussions, by establishing a framework within which leadership, and more specifically transformative leadership can be measured and understood to be effective in moving the African continent forward from its current state of crisis, in a spirited and collective effort. In this regard, the report will evaluate former President Thabo Mbeki's leadership style and the extent to which it can be considered as transformative. It will be argued that his leadership, was not only in response to the burgeoning crisis in Africa, but also sought to conceptualise and provide a visionary framework which aimed to harness the developmental potential Africa.

[1] Kennedy, P. "Political Barriers to African Capitalism." The Journal of Modern African States. Vol 32, No 2, 1994, pp 200.
[2] Richardson, P. "Good Governance: The Challenge of Leadership in Africa." 2008 http://www.africagoodnews.com/leadership/african-leadership-and-good-governance.html, p 2. Accessed 15 May 2009.
[3] Obasanjo, O, Orville, d' H& African Leadership Forum. "Challenges of Economic Development." Challenges of leadership in African Development. New York, Taylor& Francis, 1990, pp 2.

List of Acronyms

AsgiSA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
APR	African Peer Review
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
ARV	Anti- retro viral
BEE	Black Economic Empowerment
BBBEE	Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment
CPL	Coherent Policy Leader
CSSDCA	Conference on Security, Stability, Development, and Cooperation in Africa
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CRR	Country Review Report
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GPA	Global Political Agreement
GNU	Government of National Unity
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
G8	Group of industrialised nations

GEAR	Growth, Employment, and Redistribution
HAART	Highly active antiretroviral therapy
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDGs	International Development Goals
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MAP	Millennium Recovery Plan
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
NAI	New Africa Initiative
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
ODA	Overseas development Assistance
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SACP	South African Communist Party
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAP	Structural adjustment policies and programmes
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UN	United Nations
WEF	World Economic Forum
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front

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